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[Mr. P. Kesava Pillai]

community. I have no doubt they are ; but there are exceptions. What about the riot in the Ettayapuram Zamin where very good Roman Catholic Christians were involved ? When one community says, ' You should not play music before our place of worship,' the other community thinks it a disgrace if they do not do so. In some places there is a rule that music should not be played before Christian churches, or mosques or temples. This is due to an order passed by Lord Hobart when he was Governor of Madras. During his time there were very grave disorders in some places and to put an end to this trouble it was ordered that no music should be played before mosques or temples or churches. My hon. Friend, Mr. Arpudaswami Udayar, spoke of the Christians as a very docile people and a very good people. What about the Christians in Europe and the fighting between the Roman Catholics and the Protestants in Ireland ? A rule like this is absolutely necessary in order to safeguard public tranquillity and I think my hon. Friend would withdraw his amendment and vote for the resolution."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Sir, I did not want to take part in this debate. But after hearing my hon. Friend, Mr. Arpudaswami Udayar, for whose opinion I have got great regard, I thought it necessary to say what I feel in the matter and speak of my experience in another place regarding this matter. I may say, Sir, that the rule which is recommended to be framed by this resolution, is one which already exists in the State of Travancore. There the rule is that no place of religious worship may be erected without the sanction, not of the District Magistrate, but of the Government. Whether it is a place of worship of the Christians, or of the Hindus, or of the Muhammadans or of the Jews—there is no Jewish community in this Presidency, but there is such a community in Travancore,—the sanction of the Government has to be obtained. The Government receive the application of the community concerned and send it on to the District Magistrate for report ; he goes to the locality and inspects the site of the proposed building with special reference to the distance of the site from the buildings of worship of the other communities. After taking all things into consideration, the district authorities report to the Government and their recommendation is adopted except in exceptional cases. In exceptional cases Government make other enquiries also. I submit that this rule is working very well there. The existence of a rule like this is one reason for the absence of any religious troubles in Travancore. There is no reason whatever to support the amendment of Mr. Arpudaswami Udayar. In the Travancore State, all the Christians, whether they are Roman Catholics, Jacobites, or Salvation Army Christians, apply to the Government for sanction before constructing any such buildings and if the Government see no reason to reject their proposal they grant the permission. There is no reason why one religion alone should be exempted ; for that would be a source of trouble. The resolution is one that should be supported and the amendment is unnecessary."

The amendment of Mr. Arpudaswami Udayar was put to the House and negatived.

AMENDMENT TO STANDING ORDER No. 40.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—" I have to inform the House that Mr. T. M. Narayanaswami Pillai is the only candidate nominated for election to the Select Committee to consider Mr. Saldanha's amendment to Standing

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Order No. 40. I hereby declare the abovementioned gentleman duly elected under Regulation II(4) of the Regulations for the holding of elections by means of the single transferable vote."

At this stage the House adjourned for lunch.

After lunch (2-30 p.m.)

CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDINGS DEVOTED FOR RELIGIOUS WORSHIP—cont. •

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The Council will now resume discussion on Mr. Ramachandra Reddi's resolution."

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"Mr. President, Sir, I think the hon. Mover of the resolution is not aware of the powers already possessed by the Government with reference to this matter. Under section 191 of the Madras District Municipalities Act there are regulations for the restrictions of the use of sites for buildings required for various purposes. The Government have, under the rule-making powers given under that section, framed rules empowering the Collector to regulate the construction of buildings for public worship and their extension. The wording of the rule is as follows :—"No site shall be used for the construction of a building intended for public worship if, in the opinion of the Collector of the district, the construction of a building thereon will wound the religious feeling of any class of persons; provided that an appeal shall lie from the Collector's opinion to the Local Government who may issue such orders as they deem fit." So, with regard to municipal areas, the Government now possess the powers that are sought to be brought into existence now by means of the recommendation of my hon. Friend the Mover of this resolution.

"With reference to rural areas which are under the control of the local boards, the Government do not at present possess similar powers. Section 199 (1) of the Local Boards Act does not at present give the Government powers to make rules similar to those which have been made under section 191 of the Madras District Municipalities Act. I do not know what the intentions of the framers of the District Municipalities Act were in making a distinction between municipal and rural areas. Perhaps they thought the circumstances will not be similar or that the same difficulties as might be experienced in municipal areas might not arise in rural areas. Possibly they thought that there would be difficulty in asking local boards to exercise supervision as it is done with reference to municipal areas. But whatever it be it seems to me that the matter is one that might be looked into and in view of all that has been said I am willing to go into the question and see whether similar rules should be brought into existence, with regard to rural areas, which can only be done by the Government amending the present Local Boards Act.

"I am glad that the amendment that was brought forward has been defeated. Because I would be very unwilling to make any distinction in this matter on the ground of religion. Whether it be a case of a Hindu temple, or a Muhammadan mosque or a Christian church obviously they ought to come under the same restrictions if such restrictions are framed. I hope the hon. Mover of the resolution will accept my assurance that I shall make enquiries as to what should be done with regard to rural areas with a view to amend the Madras Local Boards Act so that we might possibly take such powers as we do at present possess under the Madras District Municipalities Act."